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LETTER FROM GEN. CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN TO
MR. THOMAS MORRIS, MAY 30TH, 1790.

[This letter was written during the time of the holding of the Constitutional Convention of 1790, and adds much to the history of that famous Convention. Mr. Thomas Morris, to whom it was addressed, was the son-in-law of Gen. Gadsden, and on the bottom of the third page of the letter, beneath the signature of Gen. Gadsden, is the following endorsement in a handwriting different from Gen. Gadsden's: "Mary Gadsden Morris only daughter of Thomas Morris Married Alexander Hume April 1817."]¹

Addressed : Mr. Thomas Morris
Mercht
Charleston

Columbia 30th May 1790

Dr. Morris.

Yesterday I rec^d yours of the 21st am glad to hear you left all well at Spring Farm, & think you are right in intending to remove them to Town in a day or two—Yesterday morning the Com^{ee} of the whole finished their Business & reported to the Convention, some particular matters, the most material, that of y^e adjustm^t of the general Agreement of reducing the representation to one half as near as cou'd be, being left to a select Com^{ee} of 14 to prepare & report to the Convention w^{ch} is adjourn'd to to Morrow 11 o'Clock (two Hours later than our Usual adjournm^{ts}) in order to give that Com^{ee} sufficient Time properly to range & digest that Business. The Outlines of the Constitution as far as agreed upon, I am far from thinking a Bad one, The fixing of the Seat of Governm^t is rather a matter of Conveniency, which I am sorry the last Assembly lost the most favorable Oppy of bringing it back to Charleston, The two Laws respecting this

matter w^{ch} I had never read a Syllable of till I came here, being clearly in their Favor—However that being a matter of Conveniency only, if the Constitution in other respects is satisfactory, I shall not complain. I was in hopes when the Com^{ee} of the whole broke up, that we were in a fair way of compleating our Business by Saturday next, & in good Humour or of not eneroaching at most above a Day or two on the following Week, but am now apprehensive from a Conversation last evening wth one of the select Com^{ee}, that a most unreasonable advantage to the Back Country in regard to representation will be reported to the Convention & attempted to be carried, This must throw us back, occasion Heats, & take up no little Time, & in the mean Time the Impatience and Desertion of our lower members, as it has already given them the first Ground¹, so it will I am afraid compleatly place us at their mercy in that Point— I wishd to take off $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the representation, $\frac{1}{4}$ th being in my Opinion fully suff^t to begin with, however was well satisfy'd wth the Gen^l agreem^t for One half, but I must Question whether before we have done, there will be even One fourth struck off— No Body to blame but ourselves for all this— What remains of us will endeavor to do the best we can— Inclosed is a Letter for M^{rs} Gadsden, My Love to Polly.— Where is Tom? I have not had a Line from him since I left Town, I am uneasy about him, is he unwell?— My Love to him & his Children—

I am D^r Morris

Y^r Affect^e Father

P. S. Thank you for the
papers

Chrst Gadsden

¹ This advantage was permanent. The course of the Up-Country delegates in the Constitutional Convention of 1790 amounted almost to a political revolution. And it is a singular coincidence that just one hundred years later (1890) another political revolution was accomplished by the people of the Up-Country. In each instance the power and influence of the Low-Country was curtailed. And yet the original sin did arise through fault of the Low-Country people, for time and again they tried to extend the parish system throughout the entire Province, but the measure was always defeated by the British ministry in England.—See McCrady's *History of South Carolina Under Royal Government*.